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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Security Guard Convicted of Murder Receives Longer Sentence

State v. Steven Coleman, 2018-CR-4339

DAYTON, OH (05/03/2021) – Prosecuting Attorney Mat Heck, Jr. announced today that **STEVEN COLEMAN**, 51, of Dayton, was sentenced today to an additional three years in prison, for a total of 23 years to life, after a 2nd District Court of Appeals ruling.

On Wednesday, November 7, 2018, the defendant was working as a security guard at the Ashwood Lounge, 3500 N. Main Street, in Dayton. Another security guard was involved in an altercation with the victim when the defendant punched the victim in the head, then pulled out a .40 caliber handgun and shot the victim, 29-year-old Robert Lee Burdette, in the head.

The victim was transported to the hospital in critical condition as a result of the shooting. On Saturday, November 10, 2018, the decision was made to remove the victim from life support. He died a short time later.

On December 6, 2019, after a trial, the jury found the defendant guilty as charged on:

- Three counts of Murder
- Two counts of Felonious Assault
- One count of Tampering with Evidence
- One count of Discharge of a Firearm On or Near Prohibited Premises
- Two counts of Having Weapons While Under Disability - prior drug conviction

All of the counts, except for having weapons while under disability and tampering with evidence, also included 3-year firearm specifications because the defendant was previously convicted in Florida on drug charges, prohibiting him from possessing a firearm.

On December 23, 2019, the court sentenced the defendant to a total of 20 years to life in prison. We appealed the trial court's sentence, arguing that the court erred in merging the counts of murder and discharge of a firearm on or near prohibited premises.

The 2nd District Court of Appeals ruled that the counts should not have been merged for purposes of sentencing and remanded the case back to the trial court to impose the correct sentence. Today, the trial court re-sentenced the defendant to an additional 3 years in prison, for a total of 23 years to life.

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